

Subject: Letter from Councilmember Bonin Regarding LAMC 85.02 and Safe Parking

From: Anna Kozma <anna.kozma@lacity.org>

Date: 06/24/2016 01:12 PM

To: Donald Duckworth <duckworth.donald@gmail.com>, Miki Payne2 <Miki@hbdrollinger.com>, miki@rollingerproperties.com

Hi Don and Miki,

Please see below a letter from Councilmember Bonin that was shared on NextDoor as a means to communicate some of the work going on currently at City Hall regarding rewriting LAMC 85.02, the ban on living in vehicles that was challenged in court several years ago and deemed unconstitutional. I am happy to answer any questions.

"Dear Friends,

I'm very happy to report that today we made significant progress in passing a new law that will allow people living in their vehicles a safe place to park, while prohibiting living in a vehicle on a residential street.

Please find some background information about the situation, as well as details about what I am proposing to solve the problem, below.

BACKGROUND

Currently, thousands of people in Los Angeles live in their vehicles. Absent designated and safe places for them to park overnight, people living in their cars and campers live in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles, often on residential streets.

Two years ago, the 9th Circuit Court ruled that the City law governing living in a vehicle (known as 85.02) was not constitutional, and the City has not been able to enforce the ordinance since that ruling was issued. This has been a cause of frustration for neighbors who object to strangers, and sometimes noise, trash and waste in front of their homes. It has also left people living in their vehicles without clear guidance about where they should go each night, and has stymied work to give them access to restrooms and the basic services they need.

Allowing campers and RVs to park anywhere without regulation makes little sense for our neighborhoods. On the other hand, telling people with no home that they cannot sleep in their cars and must instead sleep on the sidewalks is both cruel and a pathetic excuse for policy.

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, the City's Committee on Homelessness and Poverty (on which I sit) met to discuss a series of issues, including 85.02. During the committee meeting, I proposed repealing the existing ordinance that has been ruled unconstitutional and replacing it with a revised

version that does the following:

Prohibits vehicular living on residential streets and on the the same block as a school;
Creates the legal framework for a "Los Angeles Safe Parking Program;"
Prohibits vehicular living on both residential and non-residential streets in council districts with a critical mass of safe parking spaces;
Ends the prohibition on vehicular living in residential areas at the end of the year -- if the city has failed to create a Safe Parking program, in order to create appropriate incentive for elected leaders to prioritize the creation of a safe parking program.

SAFE PARKING


It is very important to me that the new version of 85.02 include the legal framework that will allow people who live in their cars or RVs to safely park in non-profit, church or city parking lots overnight, or on designated non-residential street segments where they have access to restrooms and can be connected with service providers and ultimately housing. Similar programs have been very successful in Santa Barbara, and I strongly believe that it is an important part of our comprehensive homelessness strategy in Los Angeles. We cannot reasonably restrict where people forced to live in their vehicles can park if we are not working to give them safe and smart alternatives.

My proposal was approved by the committee today, but still needs to be voted on by the full City Council. The Council will take up the issue on Friday.

This is an incredibly difficult issue, and my goal has been finding the right balance between treating people with no other option but to live in their cars with dignity and respect, while also protecting health and safety in the neighborhoods. I believe we struck this difficult balance in my proposal and I appreciate the input and attention so many neighbors on the Westside have given this important issue.

Regards,
Mike"

--

 Logo5-web.

Anna M. Kozma
Field Deputy - Westchester/Playa
Councilmember Mike Bonin
City of Los Angeles
(310) 568-8772 | www.11thdistrict.com



[Sign Up for Mike's Email Updates](#)

Download the City of Los Angeles MyLA311 app for smartphones!



Android



Download

MyLA311 links Angelenos with the services and information they need to enjoy their city, beautify their community and stay connected with their local government. With MyLA311, City of Los Angeles information and services are just a few taps away.